

Minutes of Meeting of the Moore St Advisory Group (Online)

19th April 2021 @ 12.30 p.m.,

Members in attendance were:

Tom Collins (Chairman),
Catherine Kennedy,
John Daly,
Brian O’Neill,
James Connolly Heron,
Aengus O’Snodaigh TD,
Neasa Hourigan TD,
Senator Mary Fitzpatrick,
Councillor Donna Cooney,
Councillor Nial Ring,
Coilín O Reilly,
Nessa Foley.

National Monuments Service:

Terry Allen,
Michael MacDonagh.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII):

Aidan Foley – Project Director
Engin Sinopluoglu – Project Manager
Emer Dennehy – Project Archaeologist
Ronan Swan – Head of Archaeology and Heritage
Dimitri Karakaxas – Transport Planner/Engineer

Dave Farrell – Secretariat

Apologies: (Catherine) Carmel Smyth, Councillor Eimer McCormack

1. Presentation by TII

The TII project team gave an overview of heritage constraints and its proposed approach outlining the history of the project, timescales and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hammerson for construction of the O’Connell St. Station. Key points:

- The preliminary design is nearly completed and the EIAR will follow it.

- A Business Case has been submitted to the Department of Transport
- Planning (once submitted) will take 1-1.5 years
- Ultimately, all going to plan, advance works to commence Q4 2022 and main works Q3 2023
- TII has entered into a MOU as it is supportive of the Hammerson proposal in terms of its compatibility with MetroLink
- Modelling projects 8670 passengers during peak evening commuting hours, 70% of pedestrian traffic to O'Connell St, 30% to Moore Lane. For 12hr period 8am – 8 pm there is a projection of 20,000 passengers
- Construction traffic will be via Moore Lane to Parnell St
- There will be continuous and attended (where required) monitoring of noise and vibration and dust and environmental management plans for same
- Tunnel from outer city to reach station by 2028

Q&A:

Deputy Hourigan queried:

- The impact of a delay to Hammerson's plans - Aidan confirmed it would have an impact but that MetroLink is a critical infrastructure project and as such will still be delivered.

Councillor Cooney queried:

- Overall Cost – Aidan advised this information is sensitive.
- Construction methodology – Aidan advised that diaphragm walls will be constructed prior to excavation
- If TII are aware of the proposal for the area to be designated an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)? – Emer advised TII is already working in that frame given the ACA on O'Connell St
- What will happen with the cobbles on Moore Lane? – Emer explained they will be mapped, lifted and stored under supervision to avoid them being damaged during construction and then reinstated as they were originally

Deputy O' Snodaigh queried:

- If footfall projections are based on its own modelling or Hammerson's? – Aidan advised it is a combination of both
- Who will own the Box? – Aidan advised MetroLink will be the owners
- Depth under the buildings – Aidan confirmed it will be 26m to rail
- If there were other sites considered? – Aidan confirmed that, previously, consideration had been given to O'Connell St. itself and also Parnell East as per Railway Order made by An Bord Pleanála for old Metro North.

Senator Fitzpatrick queried:

- If it will be a 12 hr. Station? – Aidan advised it will have capacity for 24hr but won't be operating at 24 hrs. under current plans
- Importance of direct access to Moore St. via Moore lane? - Aidan advised the connection is beneficial but the scheme is not reliant on it
- If there will be above ground construction on the footprint of the station during construction – Aidan confirmed there will
- Progress on the appointment of an independent expert to engage with property owners – Aidan advised TII intended to appoint the expert in June and will allow sufficient time for engagement with owners.

James Connolly Heron queried:

- If support for the Hammerson scheme is unreserved – Aidan advised it is not – it is based on the fact it is deemed a good proposal in the context of the metro.
- Who surveyed No's 59/60 O'Connell St? – Emer advised Hammerson did
- If the Haul Road involves demolition of O'Brien's bottling stores on the East side of Moore Lane marked 'Cabins' in the slide on the presentation which he said had been occupied by a number of volunteers during the Rising? - Emer confirmed that it is to be demolished. Aidan explained this is the best possible location for the proposed replacement building but that TII will take on board the concerns raised. This element is part of Hammerson's plans not TII's.

